

June 19, 2020

## Lorraine-Worth Consolidated Court Legislation Passes Senate and Assembly

Legislative bill S6873 (Ritchie)/A9052 (Blankenbush) passed in both the New York State Assembly and Senate last week, and now awaits Governor Cuomo's signature. For several years the Lorraine justice has also served as the Worth justice through a series of temporary appointments by the Fifth Judicial District. If signed, the new law will allow a single justice to be elected to preside in the town courts of each town.

From the legislation: "Pursuant to section 106-b of the uniform justice court act, the towns of Lorraine and Worth in Jefferson County have conducted and completed a study, each town having adopted a joint resolution providing for the study, conducted a public hearing upon the findings of the study, and adopted a joint resolution adopting such plan providing for the abolition of existing town justice positions in the towns of Lorraine and Worth and providing for the election of a single town justice to preside in the town courts of such towns. The town justice elected pursuant to this plan shall preside in the towns of Lorraine and Worth following the next general election in such towns and shall preside for the year term as elected."

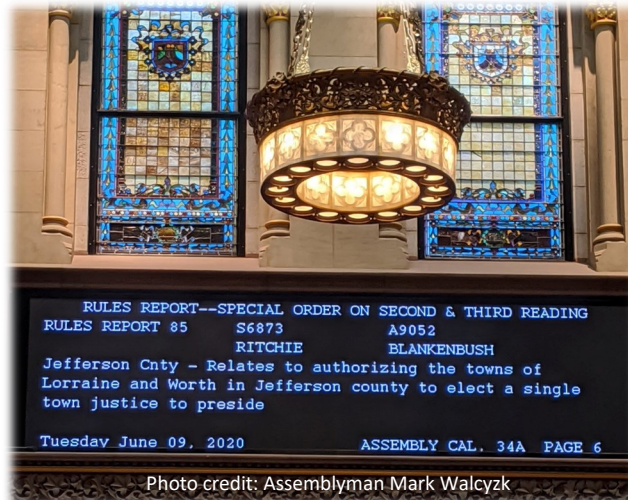


Photo credit: Assemblyman Mark Walczyk

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## New Executive Orders Affecting Municipalities

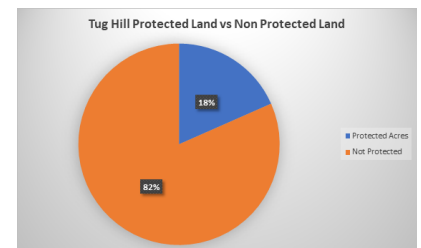
Executive Order [202.42](#) increases in-person meeting size to 25 through July 15, 2020 provided that the location of the gathering is in a region that has reached Phase 3 of the State's reopening, and social distancing protocols and cleaning and disinfection protocols required by the Department of Health are adhered to.

Executive Order [202.39](#) extends remote public hearing requirement to July 7, 2020. It also lifts local government non-essential employee 50% limit for local governments beginning two weeks after the region reaches Phase Two or above.

Several of the commission COVID-19 FAQs have been updated at [tughill.org/covid-19/](http://tughill.org/covid-19/).

## Protected Lands Issue Paper Updated

The commission has updated *Landownership and Protected Lands in the Tug Hill Region* issue paper, available at <https://tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Protected-Lands-2020-FINAL.pdf>. First published in 2015, the paper identifies and describes the protected lands in the Tug Hill region. Protected land on Tug Hill has increased from approximately 249,221 acres in 2015 to 254,495 acres in 2020, an increase of 5,274 acres, largely due to the state acquisition of the Stave Mill State Forest in Orwell and Redfield and lands along the Salmon River in Albion and Orwell. With only 12% of land on Tug Hill owned by New York State, private landownership still dominates Tug Hill, especially as compared to the Adirondacks and Catskills.



# Road to Recovery - The Path to 2025 Agricultural Webinar

## Thursday, June 25 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Jefferson County Economic Development, Farm Credit East, and the NYS Tug Hill Commission are cosponsoring a discussion about the impacts of COVID-19 and what agriculture may look like in 2025. Dr. David Kohl, a Jefferson County native and Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Finance and Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech; and Mr. Nathan Rudgers, Senior Vice President for Farm Credit East and former Commissioner of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, are the featured speakers. The webinar is free but requires registration at [us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_eF0\\_rnE7SxOTvrbC05Wrlw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eF0_rnE7SxOTvrbC05Wrlw).

While many in agriculture are dealing with the day to day impacts of the COVID – 19 Disaster and its economic challenges, it is helpful to begin looking to the future of agriculture and painting a path forward. What is important to the agricultural industry, farmers, agribusinesses and processors? What are the agricultural issues community leaders and elected officials may face? There will be Q&A and conversation moderated by Jefferson County Agricultural Coordinator Jay Matteson at the end of the session.

## Cleveland Dock Project Progresses

The project to stabilize and improve the Cleveland docks and the retaining wall has made progress in recent weeks. This project, long in the planning and funding process, has been delayed by a variety of factors, but finally got under way in March 2020 and is anticipated to be completed by July 4 of this year. For more pictures of the project and its progress in the weeks to come, visit the village's web site, [www.villageofcleveland-ny.us](http://www.villageofcleveland-ny.us).



## Planning Proceedings Transparency Webinar

### Tuesday, June 17 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Planning board and zoning board of appeals members may be interested in learning *“How to Enhance Transparency in Planning Proceedings.”* With public confidence in government low, local leaders must find opportunities to bring the public “under the tent” as it relates to planning decisions. Simply “checking the boxes” in terms of open meetings requirements is not enough to ensure that the public understands projects and their potential impact. This session will examine best practices and inexpensive (or free) tools to ensure the public understands the impact of proposed projects and your thought process in arriving at a final decision.

Register in advance at [us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_99808LDGQ3WQgBkvq6odxg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_99808LDGQ3WQgBkvq6odxg).

## New York Planning Federation

### NYPF Understanding & Applying the State Environmental Quality Review Act

#### When

Wednesday June 24  
12:15 pm - 1:30 pm

[Add to Calendar](#)

#### Where

This is an online event.

Join us on June 24 at 12:15 p.m. for a webinar on the State Environmental Quality Review Act. This webinar will offer a review of the State Environmental Quality Review Act from start to finish.

**Speaker:** Donald Young, Esq., an attorney in Rochester, NY, represents a wide variety of municipalities, advising their legislative boards, planning boards and zoning boards, as well as their local departments such as code enforcement and the clerk's office.

#### Register Now!

For more information, contact New York Planning Federation, [bsamel@nypf.org](mailto:bsamel@nypf.org), 5(18) 512-5270

# Economic Trends in the Northeast Forest Industry

On Tuesday June 16, staff attended a webinar by Eric Kingsley, a forest industry consultant with Innovative Natural Resource Solutions LLC, on his outlook for the Northeast forest products industry. He discussed lumber markets for saw logs, pulpwood and biomass, as well as the health of the forestry supply chain in the context of trends potential COVID-19 impacts.

In terms of the saw log market, housing starts are the best indicator. The 30-year trend was on an upswing until COVID-19. Lumber prices have held since the pandemic, as supply was reduced to coincide with a reduced demand. A large inventory of logs and lumber potentially signal tough times ahead, as well as a building permit backup due to reduced local government operations. Home repair and remodeling have been on the increase during this time.

One growing issue for mills is that there is currently no demand for their residue, which creates financial strain. Biomass for energy continues to be challenged by low wholesale electricity costs, which makes producing energy from biomass not cost-effective. Pulp and paper mills have seen increased demand for packaging materials, health related products and tissue. Printing and writing paper demand has been significantly decreased as people work remotely.

Potential growth possibilities in the future include cross-laminated timber, wood-based insulation, biofuels, and biochemicals. Some concerns overall included the health and age of the workforce, the forest products trucking capacity and the relative lack of speed with which the industry adapts innovation and change. Overall, the northeast is well positioned in terms of wood availability and close proximity to large markets.

The webinar is available at [www.farmcrediteast.com/knowledge-exchange/Webinars/northeast-forest-products-industry-outlook](http://www.farmcrediteast.com/knowledge-exchange/Webinars/northeast-forest-products-industry-outlook).

## Important Resources Related to Farms Under Threat

American Farmland Trust's [Farms Under Threat – The State of the States](#) report offers valuable new tools and insights that can be of help in addressing agricultural land conversion and increasing permanent protection of this irreplaceable resource within your communities. Our food and farming resiliency depends on an increased commitment from us all to save the land that sustains us.

Important links include the resources below:

- Farms Under Threat – State of the States: [Full Report](#) | [Executive Summary](#) | [Interactive Website](#)
- [Recordings of state specific webinars](#)
- [AFT's Response](#) to *Farms Under Threat*
- [New York Spatial Data Summary](#)
- [New York Policy Summary](#)
- [Farms Under Threat Press Release Highlighting New York's Findings](#)

For more information, contact **Samantha Levy**, New York Policy Manager, **American Farmland Trust**, 315 -679-4772, [slevy@farmland.org](mailto:slevy@farmland.org), [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org).



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual NYS Virtual Redevelopment Summit

Land Reuse Lessons for 2020 Foresight, JUNE 22-26, 2020

One ticket price of \$45 gives you access to three webinars, the Summit Kick-off, Community Meet and Greet, the Summit LinkedIn Networking Group, the Summit Directory, and Office Hours. View the [full Summit agenda](#) for detailed descriptions of each event.

Registration closes June 19th. Register [here](#) now!

## Justice Courts Webinar Available on YouTube

The June 18 webinar by Angie Kimball, CTHC Circuit Rider, is available on the Tug Hill Commission's YouTube channel, <https://youtu.be/U0o4YDXHy2o>.

# New Americans & Language Access Resources

On June 10, the commission learned more about language access resources provided by the NYS Department of State's Division of Administrative Rules and Office of New Americans. People with limited English proficiency (LEP), under law (Title 6 and Affordable Care Act §1557 at the federal level and NYS Executive Order 26), have the right to language access resources. The two primary resources available to LEP people are (1) interpretation services and (2) document translation. The six most common translated languages in NYS are Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Haitian Creole, Bengali, and Korean.

Interpretation services are available over the phone, in person, through a relay service for American Sign Language (ASL), and through a video remote interpretation application. It is generally recommended that interpretation services be scheduled two weeks in advance, if possible. For over-the-phone interpretation, call 1-877-963-7466, which is the line to Language Link, an outsourced service provider.

For document translation, the state contracts with Language Today professional translation services. Your vital documents and any document that allows you to access a benefit as a resident or citizen can be translated. There are forms and procedures that must be followed to access document translation services.

If Tug Hill communities need assistance with any of these services, please reach out to Alaina Mallette, [alaina@tughill.org](mailto:alaina@tughill.org) or 315-785-2387. Please note that any information shared is considered confidential. To review any New York State language access policies, plans, or complaint procedures, visit <https://www.ny.gov/language-access-policy>. You may also watch the recording of the New York Department of State's language access webinar here: TBD.

## Contact Us

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Visit us at:

Web: [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission](https://www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission)

To request our newsletter electronically please email [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call

1-888-785-2380.

For upcoming trainings, grant deadlines, and meetings, view our [calendar](#).

# Central Lewis County Water Study Progress Update

**Towns of Denmark, Martinsburg, Lowville and Watson**

Miller Engineers will be on-site to present findings on the feasibility study, discuss recommendations for infrastructure, operational, and/or administrative improvements, and will solicit input from attendees.

**WHEN: Tuesday, June 30, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.**

**WHERE: Lewis County Jefferson Community College Education Center, 7395 East Road, Lowville, NY 13367**

This meeting will be available for the public to access via Zoom (information listed below) All in-person attendees will be required to wear a mask and sanitizer will be on hand.

**Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82175898092?pwd=eHpDc09UTExzWW5LKzJlakxdk2F1QT09>

**Meeting ID: 82175898092**

**Meeting Password: 273718**

**Dial In: +1 646 558 8656**

**REQUIRED: Contact the Lewis County Planning Department at 315-376-5422 or via e-mail at [suekulzer@lewiscounty.ny.gov](mailto:suekulzer@lewiscounty.ny.gov) to register for in-person participation**